

John Henry Eaton to Rachel Donelson Jackson, February 8, 1824, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN H. EATON TO MRS. JACKSON.

Washington, February 8, 1824.

My dear Madam, I have lately recvd. a letter from you, and now reply because I am unwilling at any time to be a debtor and more particularly where the obligation is to a lady. But then my head is so full just now of politics bills laws and such like trash as to be wholly unable to work my fancy up to any point that can give interest to a letter. Well this makes no difference, for inasmuch as there is a very strong probability that ere long you may be required to come into our political Corps and join with us in the great affairs of the nation, it would not be a misplaced [attempt] even were I to tell you, all about the little workings, management and intrigue that passes on here amidst our learned band of Congressmen. would you believe it we are so depraved as scarcely ever to go to church, unless to the Capitol¹ where visits are made rather for

1 At this time religious services on Sundays were often held in the Capitol.

the purpose of shewing ones self, than that any pious feeling prompts; and then it has such an air of fashion, and shew to go there; more like going into a theatre than to the house of worship. Oh we are truly a a wonderous set; not much inferior to the good people of Sodom and Gomorrah spoken of in olden times, who perished, not on account of their virtues. In this list the Genl is not included, for every Sunday he takes himself to some one of the churches, and returns again about 1 Oclock. Now while writing to you, he is off, attending to the admonitory voice of some good Divine.

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Genl. Jacksons health is most excellent. The climate agrees well with him, and he seems in better health than he has been since the war. Mr. Adams and mr Calhouns partys over he has declined altogether going out of evening; and will only go out once again to mr. Monroes drawing room. The first good evening he will attend on that duly, and then will have ended all his night visits. He has most delightful comfortable quarters, and is subject to no exposure except in passing to the Capitol which we do every day in a warm comfortable close carriage.

If the Gnl had remained at home, I am satisfied he would not have enjoyed such health. His farm would have annoyed him—business would have [cal] led him to alabama or Nashville, exposure and wet would have been met with; but here nothing of that is found. Gowing and returning from the Capitol is ample exercise; and when at home the reading and replying to letters, and sitting with a round of pleasant company that is perputally calling to see him, keeps his mind employed and his sperits cheerful. 'Tis very well he came here. Call and myself are all that live with him, and we are quite comfortable and happy I assure you

with my great respects yours

Having returned from church, our friend handed me this letter to put a P. S. to; I have only to say that it is true, as my letter of yesterday will have advised you. mr and mrs Monroe, and mrs Watson and family, who I have Just seen, begs me to present to you their kind respects. A. J.